

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD



The Cedars of Lebanon

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BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

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Explaining a Circulation That Makes One Gasp 13,500,000!

By the Rev. Carleton Lacy, D.D., Secretary, China Agency

The China Agency reports a circulation of 5,325,293 volumes of Scripture in 1929, and Dr. Lacy adds that, with those circulated by the British and Scottish Bible Societies, the total will reach thirteen and one-half million!

YESTERDAY a prominent minister said to me, "Until very recently I did not believe in the work the Bible Societies are doing in the widespread distribution of gospel portions at a merely nominal price. But I have

been converted by the experience of one of our highest provincial officials." He referred to the man by name and told this story:

"Y—— was an official in the days of Yuan Shih-k'ai and fell under that powerful ruler's displeasure. It became necessary for him to flee from Peiping, with nothing but what he could carry in a small handbag. In his destitution and loneliness he threw open his bag. On the top of his few possessions lay a little book, which some hours before he had bought from a despised peddler on the train. He began to read the gospel story. It laid hold of his heart. The

message met his need. He sought out a church and a Christian pastor, and has become an earnest member of a leading church in this city. Everywhere he is known as a Christian."

A Loving Service

Year after year millions of copies of the Scriptures are distributed in this way. We are told that much of the seed falls by the wayside and is devoured by the birds; that many of our little books are torn to pieces or abused. But, so long as such stories of authenticated experience continue to come in, it is worth while to persist in the distribution of the portions, and to use every

means available to insure the careful sowing of the seed.

Our field secretaries are giving diligent attention to the problems of field distribution. They are finding hundreds of faithful men and women—pastors and evangelists, Biblewomen and laymen—who are ready to share in this circulating of the printed Word. Our reports show that 1,225 volunteers have had a share in the distribution of the five million and more copies of Scripture sent out by the China Agency of the American Bible Society during 1929.

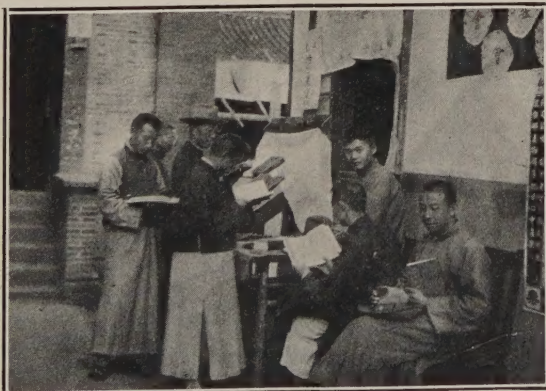
All but 65 of these are Chinese. Some of them are giving their entire time to this work, and meeting their expenses from the proceeds of sales. Many more sell books as a part of other evangelistic labors, offering them before or after they preach, in street, chapel, and market place. From many churches bands of voluntary workers go out on Sunday afternoons on festival days, or whenever leisure and a crowd offers opportunity, to render a bit of loving service to their Saviour and their fellowmen.

Reporting on this phase of our work, Mr. Jowe, Field

Agent of our North China sub-Agency, writes: "One very healthy sign in the development of the life of numerous churches is the desire on the part of many church members to go into active Christian work in their spare time. During the new year and other



A COOLIE LOAD OF TEA



BIBLE STALL AT A WORKERS' CONFERENCE

festival days many go out in groups to sell the portions and proclaim the gospel. In a number of churches bands are organized to go out on longer trips in the leisure days of winter and spring. Many among these contribute the proceeds from the sales to the building of some work in the church, as they are not in need of the money themselves. In Yuncheng, Shansi, there is a band of twenty Christians that go out regularly in the winter months to sell the portions; and a number of people were brought to Christ in this way.

A Single Illustration

"There was a small schoolboy who bought a copy of Mark with the money that his mother gave him for buying a cake for his lunch. In a reproachful manner the teacher took the book away from him, fearing that he

graciously accepted it. That is typical of many reports from widely separated parts of the country.

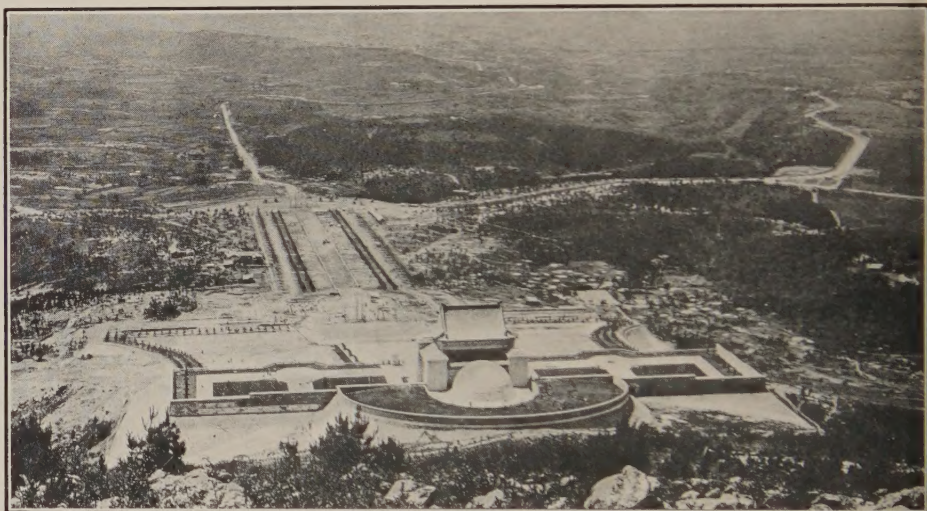
Another missionary, whose hair is grey and who is now counted among the seniors of his station, says that, in all his years of labors with pastors and evangelists, he has never found them so insistent on having constantly more and more Gospels to meet the requests of their people. A Chinese district superintendent, speaking to his annual conference of his work for the year, told how, with three pastors on an evangelistic tour through their own parishes, they had for ten days sold an average of 500 books a day!

The Church Rising to Its Opportunity

The church has become increasingly conscious of its opportunity and responsibility in

THE TOMB OF SUN-YAT-SEN, FIRST PRESI- DENT OF THE CHINESE RE- PUBLIC

Looking down
Purple Mountain
over the tomb,
and toward Nan-
king, which lies
five miles away
to the southwest.



squandered his money. In trying to learn about the character of the book that his pupil bought so foolishly with his lunch money, the teacher got so interested in it himself, that he was not able to put it down. Finally he was converted to Christianity by reading the Gospel that his foolish pupil bought."

Many times these volunteers are greeted with scorn, with jeers, even with violent attack. During the past year, however, the reports much more frequently tell of the eagerness with which people have received the Book. A missionary physician, who for sixteen years has persistently distributed Gospels among the passengers whenever he travels on a river steamer, reported recently that for the first time he had met with not a single rejection. Usually some one spurns his offer or bluntly refuses to take a book. But, on his last trip up the Yang-tze, every person to whom he proffered a Gospel

the dissemination of Scriptures. More ministers in charge of congregations are asking for our books, more congregations are observing annually Bible Sunday. All of this is reflected in the constantly increasing Chinese correspondence to and from the offices of the Bible Society. Whereas eight years ago practically our entire business was done with and through missionaries, the Shanghai office, during 1929, received about 2,000 communications from Chinese correspondents. The same sort of change has taken place in our offices at Hankow and Peiping, where we now have Chinese field secretaries keeping in touch with the churches. In turn, and as a considerable factor in bringing about this change, there has been a steady stream of letters and printed matter going out from our offices to these workers. The quarterly magazine of the Bible Society now reaches approximately 5,000 peo-

ple. Our Christmas greeting card, which carried a translation of Dr. Rall's "How to Use the Bible," went to nearly as many, and one mission worker sent a request for 600 more cards for distribution among postal employees. Through the Chinese religious press we have been put in touch with many readers; and the steady cultivation carried on through these recent years is showing itself both in a church actively interested and engaged in Scripture distribution and in an annual circulation that makes us fairly gasp.

This we believe to be the first explanation of the rapidly increasing circulation of Scrip-

tures reported by all the Bible Societies. The number of foreign missionaries in China is 20 per cent less than was the case three years ago; while the circulation figure for Scripture portions is 30 per cent greater. The American Bible Society alone, using primarily the same methods of voluntary distribution that has proven so successful for over a decade, circulated more than twice as many volumes this last year as we put into the field five years ago; and more than the combined circulation of the British and Foreign Bible and the American Bible Societies' China Agencies for any years prior to 1921.

A Unique Bible Car

By the Rev. J. J. Morgan, Agency Secretary, Southwestern Agency

Brief reference was made in the "Story of the Year" in the RECORD for June, 1929, to Mr. H. E. Hesselstine's work. We are happy to give a more extended account of the unique equipment which Mr. Hesselstine has developed, and the fine service he is rendering.

THE American Bible Society has in its employ a man who, at sixty-two years of age, had never driven an automobile a mile,



SECRETARY MORGAN, MR. HESSELTINE AND THE CAR—OPEN SIDE

but now at sixty-eight he has driven the equivalent of across the United States five times, besides covering much of the Southwest several times. In that time he has built six house cars, doing practically all the work himself, being, he says, "like little Johnny's father, a Jack of all trades," only Johnny told it a little differently.

His business is selling Bibles in Oklahoma and Texas; and as he gives Bibles to the poor and unfortunate, the civic authorities usually give him the best corner in town for his car. One whole side of the car opens up, making a large awning, and revealing a series of shelves containing his stock of books.

The peculiar thing about the car he has built is that it weighs less than half as much as the usual house car, yet still is as strong and durable. He had to build a car large enough to

hold several people in bad weather, and have room for them to move around freely. It had to be tall enough for the tallest man, and large enough to carry his stock, and provide space for clothing and all such supplies that a man needs when living in a car. It needed a good bed, and a means for heating in the coldest weather. He decided the only sure way to fill the bill was to originate a new class, and, in doing so, he has cut loose from all old ideas.

His shelving is hinged, so that he can tip it either way, enabling him to have either an indoor or an outdoor store, depending on the weather. Protective strips are on the edges of the shelves to prevent books sliding off, making them "stay put," when driving.

His bed is a sleeping porch over the radiator, with canvas curtains protecting it—the front one letting down from the top—being controlled by two cords at the head of the bed.



THE CLOSED SIDE

These curtains unbutton at the top and spread over the bed during the day.

The windshield is two panes of glass, 19x

38 inches. One opens up, forming a door through which he goes to bed. For heat he has a diminutive wood or coal stove in the front corner of the car. He also keeps an oil heater beside it. The smoke pipe is a section of 3-inch conductor pipe, which he takes down and shoves into a long boot in the back when it is not in use. A table fits over both stoves and the steering wheel; but, when not in use, the table fits alongside of cases; or, as it has only one leg, which is hinged, it can be put anywhere out of the way when not in use.

For storage purposes he has cupboards under his cases, and large lockers on both running boards. He carries many curios, geological and mineralogical specimens, etc., and will be constantly adding to the line. One of his most popular attractions is a copy of the smallest

Bible in the world. An ice skate and a snowshoe attract many, who have never seen those articles here in the South.

He says that the biggest curio of all is the driver, who was sent South ten years ago to die. But the doctors did not know what the climate of the Southland could do for a bronchitis patient.

The "tout ensemble" is on a one-ton truck, and he affirms that when loaded it weighs very little more than some of the car bodies these trucks carry. The roof is sheet metal to protect from possible hailstorms, and four anchor ropes, one at each corner, hold it in hard winds; but he says that the sandstorms beat all his Yankee ingenuity. The car, Mr. Hesselstine says, is adaptable to many other lines of business, as well as a Bible House on wheels.

"A Bible, a Bible, I Want a Bible"

By W. C. Porter, Brazil

This article, taken from "The Presbyterian of the South," January 22, 1930, is noteworthy in several ways. Hunger for the living Word; eagerness for the printed Word; cooperation between missionaries and our representatives; testimony, from those who know, concerning the value and method of the Bible Society work; lifelong service by missionaries—forty years of cooperation between the writer and Dr. Tucker,—these are all here revealed.

"**M**R. PORTER, I want a Bible." Such is the appeal that comes to me nearly every day.

"I cannot furnish you a Bible. My stock is nearly exhausted (I have only six expensive Bibles in hand), and I have no more funds to lay in a new stock." And that poor sinner seeking the Bread of Life has to walk away without a copy of God's Word.

Bibles and New Testaments cost money; for the American Bible Society has to print and bind its books, and then box and ship them to the different Agencies all over the world. Here, in Brazil, the government collects customs duties on all Bibles that enter the country. The Bible Society must spend a large sum to put the Scriptures within the reach of the nations. Even so, the Society furnishes missionaries, or any other Christians who want to help in this good work, with Bibles at much less than the cost of printing and distributing, and we missionaries sell them at the lowest price possible.

Dr. H. C. Tucker, the Society's Agent in Rio de Janeiro, and I have been in the Bible business for more than forty years, he furnishing me Bibles from the Society, and I making an effort to get them into the hands of the people. Many are the poor sinners who have been brought to Christ through the printed Word of God, which we have circulated.

Once, a man, hearing that I was on a missionary tour in the far interior of Rio Grande do Norte, came forty miles on horseback to see me and ask what I was preaching. He dismounted at my friend's door at 3:00 p. m. on Saturday.

I at once got my Bible, and my host brought out his. We talked till 6:00 p. m., he asking questions, and we answering from the Bibles. Supper was then announced. After supper I preached to a gathering of more than seventy people. Services over, our friend came for more of the glad tidings. At 11:00 o'clock, tired out with the long strain, I went to bed, leaving the other two still talking. The next morning, when I waked up, I heard my host's voice reading the Bible.

It being Sunday, I preached in the morning and evening, receiving into the church by profession of faith and baptism fifteen people. The night services closed at nearly 11:00 p. m. After the benediction the man bought a Bible, saying: "I have found that Christ is my Saviour; now I am going back to my family and people and tell them about Jesus and read the Bible to them." Then that six-footer, about thirty-five years of age, said good-bye and rode away.

Does it pay to send missionaries and Bibles to hungry souls like this?

A Fishing Rod and a Penny Testament

In an address at a conference of Y. M. C. A. workers in Chicago, last October, Dr. John A. Mackay made the following suggestive reference to his boyhood reading of the Epistles of St. Paul. It is such a revealing testimonial to the fascination and influence of Scripture, that we submit this extract of his address to RECORD readers for their satisfaction and inspiration.*

“WILL you allow me to say something intimate? I suppose that most of us became Christians through our contact in some way with the Jesus of the Gospels. It was his figure that appealed to us. In my own case it was different. I was only a boy of fourteen; but, after the matchless Lover of whom Thompson speaks in his poem had tracked me down and I received a sense of oneness with God and his will, my imagination became fired with St. Paul's description of the cosmic significance of Jesus in the second chapter of Ephesians.



DR. MACKAY

“It was holiday time among the Scottish hills when this happened. With my fishing rod in my hand and a penny New Testament in my pocket, I would rove the wilds. For the

first time in my life Paul's letters spoke to me. And, oh, the romance of it! His sublime picture of all things in Christ caught my boyish imagination so much so that Dumas's “Count of Monte Cristo,” which I just received as a prize, had not half the romance of that cosmic epic.

“All one in Christ Jesus!—a oneness that crossed the seas and the mountains, obliterating all hegemony of race and color, welding mankind into one universal structure in Christ. That vision became the most significant thing in my life. Ever since it flashed upon my inner eye, it has given me an insatiable craving for a Christian world view that can satisfy my intellect, as something came into my life as a boy on the moors, that gripped and satisfied my heart.”

*Dr. Mackay became known in Latin America through his development of a remarkable boys' school in Peru, later occupying under government appointment the chair of metaphysics and modern philosophy in the National University of Peru. In these two fields of service he exerted a strong and helpful influence upon the student body. Dr. Mackay is now secretary of the National Council of the Y. M. C. A., with special reference to service among the young men of Latin America.

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“To the Harmless Drudges”

By General Secretary North

A BOOK dedicated to “the harmless drudges, past, present, and future” would seem to hold little of value to thoughtful people. But the delicacy and the seriousness of the task of the churches and the Bible Societies in bringing the Bible to every people in their own tongue has rarely been brought out so keenly. Seeing a language as “the shrine of a people's soul,” the Rev. Edwin W. Smith, literary superintendent of the British and Foreign Bible Society, has written such a book under this title.* Borrowing Dr. Samuel Johnson's definition of a lexicographer, he has dedicated it with humor to those who, with unending patience, master the unknown tongues and strive to display in them accurately and inspiringly the message of the Word of God.

Though written primarily to interpret, to

missionary candidates and to board members, the significance of the literary work of the missionary, the place of the Bible as the literary contribution *par excellence* breaks out inevitably through these illuminating pages. After pointing out the great numbers of languages and dialects, and the barriers which they create, Mr. Smith, introducing his chapter on “Unbabeling Babel,” takes us to the heart of both the problem and the purpose of the Bible Societies:

We begin now to realize something of the magnitude of the task which our Lord entrusted to His apostles when He said: “Go ye and make disciples of all the nations . . . , teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you.”

If all the nations are to be taught, it means that first the languages of all nations must be learnt. It means, further, that our Lord's words must be translated into those languages. And this implies that, where the languages were not written, they must now be written, and that where the people had never been able to read, they must now be taught to read. This

*Edwin W. Smith. *The Shrine of a People's Soul*, 208 pp.. London: Edinburgh House Press. Missionary Education Movement, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York. \$1.00.

assertion is founded on the belief that men can only assimilate our Lord's teaching and become effectively acquainted with His person as they are enabled to study in their own tongue the records handed down to us in the New Testament.

How, then, shall this be done and Babel be unlabeled? Shall some dominant foreign language be taught? Not as a substitute for the mother-tongue, urges Mr. Smith. The personality of the native, the self-respect of the tribe, the very modes of thought and expression, are forced into an unwholesome, unreal atmosphere, in which the deepest fruits of the spirit are nearly impossible. Yet, this does not mean that reductions in the number of dialects may not be possible. Given a suitable linguistic situation and a wise translator, the very publication of the Scriptures themselves may reconcile, as Archdeacon Dennis's "Union" Ibo Bible is doing in Iboland, a whole group of

things is baffling. It calls to us to exert all our powers to overcome the difficulties; and perhaps it is precisely through our resolute efforts that the full purpose of God will be realized in us.

Of these efforts the translator's is a vital part. First comes the listening to the sounds of the language, to discover the words and the sounds of which they are composed. How complicated this can become is illustrated where the Shan syllables "Ma ma ma ma" properly intoned mean "Help the horse, a mad dog comes." Similar difficulties appear in many African languages as well as in Chinese. Given, then, a beginning at the sounds, the selection of symbols or letters must be made. For these the phonetic studies of the scientists have recently produced most valuable suggestions and standards, although their application is full of problems. Then comes the "harmless drudgery," the unending search for words for

THE TSWA REVISION COMMITTEE

Rev. J. A. Persson, Aroni S. Mukombo, and Rev. Tizora M. Navess.

Those who recall Dr. Erwin H. Richard's vivid story on "Setting the Bible Loose in Africa," in the May, 1925, *Record*, will know that he reduced to written form the language of the Sheetswa in Portuguese East Africa, and gave them the first translation of the Bible in Tswa. Further acquaintance with the language has made a revision of that translation desirable.



dialects into a single common speech throughout. Or, again, the selection of a major dialect for translation and for educational use may result, through its increased use and its enrichment, in its becoming the standard, as was brought about by Martin Luther's translation. The steady historical development of a *lingua franca* over a wide area, and the assimilation of other forms of speech to it, may in time result in the disappearance of these forms. Such *lingue franche* are to be eagerly watched for and used by the missionary; but what is to be done for the dialect groups meanwhile? The answer is that, even though these dialects may perish, "the people must be fed." Even though it may be impossible to create a whole Christian literature for a small tribe, at least they should have one Gospel or more in their own tongue.

We believe, writes Mr. Smith, that the ultimate truth is so profound that it cannot be explored by any one people, nor expressed in any single language; and that out of the present confusion there will emerge in God's good time a greater unity of thought and purpose. But it cannot be denied that the present state of

meanings and meanings for words. "The whole business of spreading Christian truth in the world is, in the last resort, a matter of words. Upon a mastery of words depends the success of the evangelist, of the pastor, of the teacher—yes, even of the physician. It is the unesteemed labour of the grammarian and lexicographer that renders practicable that mastery." Mr. Smith's own experiences, as the chief translator of the New Testament into Ila, vividly testify to the problem, and he draws upon many others as well for evidence. For many years Dr. Gunn, in the New Hebrides, bought from the natives words new to him at nine-pence a hundred. Mr. Smith would pencil words and phrases on his white coat sleeve as he heard them suddenly in counsel with Ila men. The determination of Dr. A. E. Ruskin, of the Belgian Congo, to find the word for "salted" (required for Mark 9:49) caused some natives to doubt his sanity, and his cook to be suspicious of him.

Still more difficult is the problem of rendering words which have no equivalent—how

render "snow" in the tongues of tropical Africa, or "cow" on islands where only pigs and dogs are known! Even more perplexing is it when no clear equivalent is available for more important words. Some inspiring solutions appear: among the Miskito Indians the translator renders "forgiveness" as "to take a man's fault out of your heart"; Dr. J. G. Paton rendered a well-known passage "Lean thy whole weight on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Still more knotty problems appear in grammar—where literal translation would reverse the meaning, or where one form of speech is used to men and another to women. "How is one to put Greek, which abounds in prepositions, into an African tongue which, properly speaking, has no prepositions at all?" And beyond grammar, the risks of idiom arise. Imagine the state of mind of the translator who was informed by his helper that the equivalent of "Far be it from me to do this thing" was "May I speak to my mother-in-law before I will do this thing!"

Yet, in spite of the great difficulties, the message can not only be translated, but made

living in speech. Professor J. H. Moulton, a deep student of New Testament Greek, wrote, "The Holy Ghost spoke absolutely in the language of the people, as we might surely have expected he would." And what is true of the Greek may become so in a multitude of languages, given the requisite skill and devotion on the part of the translators. Indeed, in some languages the force of the original may be caught even better than in English. Of the work of an unusually competent committee, a close student is quoted as saying, "The outcome is a Kafir Bible which is, to one who can really think in the language and study it with the originals, a perfect gem. The poetic parts, while close translations, are quivering with life, rhythm, and poetry as the English never can." All over the world, thousands of communities of Christians and the younger churches that are rising to take their places with the historic churches of the West bear testimony to the success of the translator.

But what of those to whom the light has not yet come? The Master's words are—"To every creature."

Notes and Comments

THE Publication Committee at its last meeting authorized another edition of 1,000,000 one-cent portions, each containing not less than a complete book of the New Testament, the bulk of them being single Gospels. This will make over 25,000,000 of these one-cent portions printed in seven years from the present set of plates, first used in 1923.

Our supporters as well as our readers will be interested and probably impressed by the number of these portions published annually as reported by the printing department.

Year	Portions
1923	1,600,000
1924	2,650,000
1925	3,300,000
1926	5,350,000
1927	4,295,000
1928	3,300,000
1929	4,000,000
	24,495,000

Prior to 1927 these portions had no pictures. In 1927 the attractive colored pictures were placed on the covers, and other pictures and maps included in the various portions. The colored pictures have added much to the popularity of the portions.

A SHIPMENT of 5,000 copies of the Luragoli Testament in 12 cases started for the Friends' African Mission, Kenya Colony, East Africa, on February 20. It weighed a ton and was valued at \$1,350.

ECHOES from Bible Sunday are still heard. One comes in a letter from Secretary Tucker, of our Brazil Agency, reporting contribution of \$48.55 on Bible Sunday from the Russian Baptist Church of Mooca, São Paulo, and the Lettish Baptist Church of São Paulo, "as a proof of the interest these immigrant believers have in the great work of the American Bible Society."

While rejoicing in this evidence of interest in the Bible Society, and also of some prosperity in their new homes, on the part of these emigrants from Russia, let us remember earnestly in prayer their fellow Christians still in Russia denied religious liberty and suffering for their faith.

OUR finance department has called attention to a continuity and variety of support by one person that is a delight to us as it would be to any worthy cause. Miss Harriet E. Strong has been an annual contributor for thirty-two

years. Not only this, but her contributions have been quarterly, and in double figures each quarter. She has a twofold further relation, being both a Life Member and an annuitant.

* * *

Another long-time giver is Mr. John Winthrop Auchincloss, from whom contributions have come annually for a quarter of a century, several coming in a year.

THE Foreign Mission Conference held in January was one of unusual value. Reemphasis on evangelism is one result, as indicated by the following extracts from resolutions there passed:

In the inspiring fellowship of this Conference, we solemnly renew our allegiance to our Lord, and call upon all our fellow members of the Protestant churches of North America to a more sacrificial obedience to him and to a large sharing of the risen, living Christ with all mankind. The Conference is deeply impressed with the fervent spirit and purpose of the Christian church in China and in Japan, especially as evidenced in the present vigorous crusade of aggressive evangelism, and pledges itself to the fullest spiritual cooperation with these movements.

THE Commission on Evangelism and Life Service of the Federal Council reports a fact which will surprise many. Reading matter of a purely devotional character—scripture, meditation and prayer—was printed as a daily religious feature last year by 341 newspapers with a total daily circulation of 4,707,778 copies. *The Standard* of New Bedford, Massachusetts, in 1923, was the first daily to print a daily Lenten feature.

THE "Fellowship of Prayer" was used for devotional broadcasting during Holy Week last

year by 44 stations, some of them of very high power. Copies of the "Fellowship of Prayer," this year prepared by the Rev. J. T. Stocking, D.D., may be had from the Commission on Evangelism and Life Service, 105 East 22d Street, New York City, at two cents a copy.

THE LIVING BOOK

By Benjamin Copeland

'TIS a living Book you have in your hand,—
Oh, hold it reverently!
Deep calling to deep, to the soul it speaks
In the tones of eternity.

A harp of a thousand strings, 'tis swept
By the Breath of Pentecost!
Nor in all the world's saddest, wildest strife
Was a single note e'er lost.

As none other book ever spake before,
It speaks to you and to me,
With the solemnly earnest, searching voice
Of divine authority.

Out of a higher, holier realm,
Like a herald from the Throne,
My will it summons, my heart, my life,
With a majesty all its own.

It leads the soul to the cross of Christ;
It tells of sins forgiven;—
It makes the path of duty plain,
And shows the way to heaven.

'Tis a living Book you have in your hand,—
Oh, hold it reverently!
'Tis the Word and Will of the Living God!
'Tis the Voice of Eternity!

Giving and Receiving

By Carroll E. Beach

OVER a long period of years the American Bible Society has been favored in an unusual degree by the good will of Christian people all over the world who believe in the Bible and who desire to aid in its widespread distribution. Of all the friendships which have sprung up at various times in various ways since the Society's organization one hundred and fourteen years ago, those which are directly traceable to our annuity plan are unique.

As most of our RECORD readers know, the annuity plan, which has been used by the Society for over eighty years, provides for the payment of a specified annual sum by the Society to the holder of an annuity bond agreement (the holder being called an annuitant) as

long as the annuitant lives. Persons who desire to make a gift of \$100 or more to the Society, but who need the income from the amount, find the plan supremely satisfactory.

In illustration of the various reasons for this satisfaction, we share with our readers excerpts from a few of the many interesting letters received within recent months.

Contribution to the Kingdom of God

A majority of the annuitants from whom the letters have come state that their greatest satisfaction is derived from the knowledge that ultimately the money will aid the essential work of translating, publishing, and distributing the Bible. A few of many such statements are:

The thing that pleases me most is that ultimately my gift to you on the annuity basis will aid in sending Bibles in all languages all over the world. As soon as possible I will take another annuity bond agreement for that purpose.

Apart from the business phase of annuity bond agreements as an investment, is the spiritual side, and for me this has the stronger appeal. The possession of these bonds gives the feeling of being allied with the forces working for the betterment of humanity and with the agencies that tend toward the advancement of the Kingdom.

The supreme regret of my father, as he peacefully entered the valley of the shadow of death, was that he was unable to tell to his fellow-men what the loving Saviour meant to him. The American Bible Society is doing this for him through the annuity, which also gives me a steady income.

My consuming passion is to carry out Christ's command to go into all the world and preach the gospel. I can do this by helping to publish and circulate Bibles. Of course, I like the liberal interest you pay, but that is not the principal thing with me.

Safety

The fact that an annuity investment is absolutely safe is another feature that makes an appeal to many of our friends, as illustrated by the following letters:

The annuity bond agreement of the American Bible Society impresses me as being desirable because of my belief in the permanency of your organization.

I believe that annuity bond agreements of the American Bible Society are the safest investment in the world. The first \$500 which I placed with you on the annuity basis gave me more real pleasure than I had derived from any source up to that time.

The American Bible Society appeals to me, a business man, as a solid enterprise, whose monthly financial statements that appear in the RECORD reveal solid financial footings and careful administration. The world-wide distribution of the written Word that reveals to the world the "Incarnate Word," is incorporated in a substantial material and financial structure that is commensurate with the dignity and importance of the enterprise. I regard my investment with the American Bible Society as the best of many that I have made, regarded from every point of view.

• • •

What the Bible Means to Me

By William T. Ellis, LL.D.

This tribute to the Bible is from such an original and unusual angle, that we share it with our readers, abbreviating it by a few omissions. It is from "Westminster Uniform Lesson Teacher."

PUT into the confessional by the Editor, I find myself fronting the fact that I am a plagiarist. Most of my writing for thirty-five years past has been a mere restatement of material I have got from the Bible. Shamelessly and flagrantly, I have been rewriting the ideas set forth in Scripture.

As I turned twenty,—that was thirty-five years ago,—I became an editor of *The Golden*

Freedom from Worry

A short time prior to her death, which occurred recently, a California woman, who had made generous annuity gifts to the Society, wrote to our Treasurer:

I tell my friends that the annuity checks from the American Bible Society come floating in to me like little birds, with no care or thought on my part.

Others have expressed as follows that freedom from worry which the annuity plan brings to them:

No other form of investment can lend such peace of mind to the autumn of life, or offer such strength to age in its weakness, or afford such security when winter comes.

Freedom from worry is a strong point in my satisfaction derived from your annuity plan. My first money sent you was soon after staggering losses, and I felt that safety was most essential. This expectation has been most thoroughly fulfilled.

Several years ago I commenced making an occasional contribution to your Society on the annuity basis. Now I receive a check from you every month, which covers a portion of our living expenses. It is very comforting to know that this check for a certain amount, which is a satisfactory yield, will come regularly, in spite of fluctuation or financial depression in the stock market.

Attractive Yield

The annual income paid to holders of annuity bond agreements is often much larger than they could secure with safety from commercial investments. Realizing this, some annuitants have asked the Society to pay them lower rates than they are entitled to receive; while others who need the largest possible income express their satisfaction thus:

I am so thankful that I am in a position to place some funds in the wonderful work of the American Bible Society and at the same time secure an attractive and steady income for my own needs.

The amounts I have placed in your annuity bond agreements are the most satisfactory investments I have ever made; not only am I helping the greatest institution in the land, but at the same time I am providing well for my own future.

Rule, now the *Christian Endeavor World*, and there, in weekly comments upon the topics, I filched my ideas from the exhaustless pages of the Bible. Two years later I was called to the editorship of *Forward* and the other illustrated papers of the Presbyterian Board of Publication, under Dr. J. R. Miller. I also took on a lesson-comment department in the *Westminster Teacher*. For five years, in addi-

tion to editing, I wrote uncounted editorials, paragraphs, and lesson helps, as well as "Twilight Talks" in the *Sabbath School Visitor*, all cribbed from the Bible.

Looking back, I now see that I made up for my lack of formal education, as far as possible, by drawing my thoughts from the Bible. When the week's grist of editorial paragraphs simply would not flow from my empty noddle, I would turn to the Book of Proverbs and rewrite Solomon, simply putting modern clothes on his ancient wisdom.

Since then I have written every week, over a period of more than twenty-five years, a Sunday-school lesson for a syndicate of daily papers, with millions of readers weekly. Syndicate men tell me that mine is the oldest feature in American journalism; and they marvel that it has lasted so long, with steadily increasing success. I do not tell them—as I here frankly confess—that the only reason my articles have not petered out, like so many other syndicate articles, is that they are simply life in the terms of the Bible. I blush at compliments about "sustained interest"; for the credit is not mine: it is due simply to the fact that there is no bottom to the Bible. It is not Ellis that is exhaustless, but the Bible. I simply ladle out the waters which come, not from a cistern, but from an ever-flowing spring.

So, you see, the Bible has been to me a substitute for grammar school, high school, college, and theological seminary. Will Rogers, the comedian, has a formula for introducing his philosophy: "All I know is what I read in the papers." All I know is what I learn from the Book, which, like the mercy of God, is "fresh every morning and new every evening."

Outstanding in my life's learning from the Scriptures is the tremendous truth that the pertinent word for the times may always be found in Holy Writ. Perhaps it is because I am a newspaper man, that the eternal contemporaneity of the Bible has meant so much. The essential teachings of this book are always a jump ahead of the day's newspaper. I have found the Bible more "up-to-date" upon life's problems, than any of the many new-fangled philosophies which I have seen come

and go during the thirty-five years that I have been watching this passing show of human nature. I do not know any situation in international affairs, or in an individual's personal perplexities, which may not be illuminated by the clear, white light of Scripture.

In the Bible there is a sanity, a wholesomeness, a normalcy which fits life's needs. Take it for its plain meaning and you have enough. For myself, I have never been allured by faddish and fantastic Bible study. As a plain man, I find the great teachings of the Bible, which are clear and unequivocal, more than enough to occupy my thought. I deeply respect the sagacity of Westminster divines, who declared that "the Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man." Certainly, that is what the newspaper-reading public wants to know.

I have indicated what the Bible means to me as a thought-starting book, as an inspiration to the mental processes, as a fertilizer of the imagination, as a standard of counsel and of character. This book makes a timid man courageous, a nervous man serene, a lazy man ambitious, a selfish man a brother to everyone whom he can reach.

This "confession" which the Editor has extorted declines to enter into the more personal and intimate precincts of the Bible's function as a comforter in sorrow, a pledge of pardon in penitence, a comrade in loneliness, a guide in perplexity, an armory in controversy, and a refuge in distress. Every Christian knows how, in his most sacred hours, the Bible has for him alone the word which seems to have been written to meet his peculiar need.

As a historic book, buttressed by its backgrounds, the Bible has a unique meaning for me, because I have traveled over the whole territory of Bible lands, finding confirmations of the Book's accuracy beyond what I have been able to tell even in a big volume that I have written upon the subject.

Most of all, the Bible has meant to me a revelation of its hero, Jesus, the Saviour, who is life's motivation and measure and explainer and reward. In the Bible I have come to know Jesus Christ.

• • •

A Praiseworthy Bible

IN the December issue of our RECORD, on page 199, was a picture of Mr. G. O. Sah and his family. Under his arm he was carrying the Bible which had had much influence in his becoming a Christian. His letter, written to Mr. Wong, which is herewith printed is not

a model of English composition. But it is a naive, transparently honest, testimony which, coming from far China, and in connection with Dr. Lacy's article on China in this issue, is peculiarly appropriate for our columns at this time. Mr. Sah wrote:

"Before I am writing this letter, I should thank God through Jesus Christ for I have had left crimes after I heard the Gospel from you at Lanchi during March, 1928. Before that time I confess myself was really an extreme sinner. I have committed adultery, idolater, covetousness, gambling, lie and many other unrighteousness, for which my conscience suffered greatly. Even though strong and good advices against my above evil deeds have been made by lovely wife and kinsmen, but they were absolutely in vain. I was temporarily repented when great loss has sustained in gambling, or suffered in doing unrighteousness, but as soon as the pain or grieve is over, everything was forgotten and the old conducts were again resumed.

"Since I heard the Gospel from you, I felt myself have committed too heavy crimes, and it is too simple and unhappy for me to live in the world under such circumstances. Besides doing evils, eating, drinking, and clothing, there is nothing good for self nor to others. And are these our Creator expects? asked myself. This question could not be solved until I bought from you the Holy Bible which has given me much more than I wish to know. Glorify the Lord, after I heard the gospel

from you and at the same time I read the Praiseworthy Bible, my heart was highly warmed. I made up my mind that time to be a new man, given up my old deeds and put on Christ's Blood Garment. I have cried, repented, prayed to the God through Christ asked to forgive my trespasses. I have confessed my crimes and recognized Jesus Christ is my only Saviour before the public, and therefore baptized in China Inland Mission at Lanchi last year.

"It was very strange that I was consciously felt my cigarette job was dislike by Lord and which I should given up though I have worked for British-American Tobacco Co. for twelve years. It is joyfully, Lord gave me the chance in Texas Oil Product Co. last month, and let me left cigarette Co. without difficulty. Even though my present salary is lower than that of former one, while my heart is full of joy as Lord blessing me in every respect.

"Two more requirements I wish your kind assistance, my dearest brother. Firstly, my wife and children are bad in healthy as you know, please mention them whenever you pray. Secondly, I fear myself will be stumble again as am not deeply rooted and too young. Kindly pray for me about this subject. Guide and teach me all the time, my dearest brother."

Increasing Interest in Books on Religion

UNDER this title the Rev. Dr. Arthur J. Brown, interim editor of the *Missionary Review of the World*, writes in its February issue with convincing facts. The part of the article most allied to our work is here given:

"Religion is a subject of increasing public interest, and the Bible is still the most popular book in the world, pessimists to the contrary notwithstanding. Else, how can one explain the steady stream of books from the great publishing houses of Europe and America? These houses publish books to sell. They reject manuscripts, however meritorious, for which they believe there would not be a profitable market. It is significant, therefore, that trade reports show that religious books rank next to fiction in the total number of volumes published in the United States. It is not surprising that fiction headed the list with 1,135 novels, but religion came next with 776,—a number which exceeded sociology, economics, biography, drama, poetry, and books for children. (The figures are for 1928.—Ed.)

"Still more significant is the steady increase in proportion as compared with former years. In the year 1880, the number of religious

books published in America was 239; in 1900 it was 448; in 1920 it was 665; and in 1928 it was 776. The advance outstripped that of books on other subjects, in 1900 religious books having been sixth on the list; while in 1928 they were second. 'And yet,' observes the editor of the *Federal Council Bulletin*, who cites these facts, 'some people talk as if general concern for religion disappeared with our fathers!'

"We are impressed, not only by the number, but by the character of the books on religion that come to our desk. * * * Most of the books make no sensational appeal, but are serious discussions of weighty themes, the kind of books that demand the thoughtful study of thoughtful men and women."

"The Accepted Time"

WE are permitted to quote two interesting and significant paragraphs from a letter written by Dr. Edward C. Perkins, of the "Water of Life Hospital," Kiukiang, China, dated September 16, 1929. One cannot read these stirring words without having in mind the urgent solicitation of Scripture as appli-

cable to missionary opportunity: "Behold now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation." Dr. Perkins writes:

"Our work is so interesting and so stirring, and so progressive just now, that I would not leave unless under the most genuine compulsion; but, on the other hand, I have been most truly wishing that our furlough were at this time, in order that we might tell people in every key, that the present stage of Chinese advancement is one which not only needs Christian help, but is a period of the most signal opportunity. Anybody should see that, when the whole nation is evolving so rapidly, both inwardly and outwardly, and chiefly the former; when everything of their own is up for review, whether it be time-honored customs or religious beliefs; and when everything from outside is under a most interested observation, and investigation, nobody ought to think that the day for presenting Christ's gospel is either past, or is unpropitious.

"One thing I have noticed particularly, in giving out little Gospels on train or boat, has been the eagerness with which they are received. I have been doing this for a good many years now, and there is a reality now in the interest with which the people take the books, which is different from previously. The gospel of Jesus Christ has always been able to win its way, if it can only have a presentation, and its effect already upon China is exhibited in this very great upheaval, this turning of 'the world upside down,' which has always occurred wherever it has been introduced."

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

EDITORS *The Secretaries*

NEW YORK, MARCH, 1930

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

INSTITUTED 1816

Bible House, Astor Place, New York

FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE BOARD

THE tenth stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and fourteenth year was held at the Bible House, Astor Place, New York, on Thursday, February 6, 1930, at 3:30 p. m., President E. Francis Hyde in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Duncan J. MacMillan.

The minutes of the ninth stated meeting for the year were approved.

The Rev. Cleland B. McAfee, D.D., LL.D., moderator of the Presbyterian Church of the U. S., was elected an Honorary Vice-President of the Society.

The officers were requested to send a message of congratulation and good wishes to the senior Vice-President of the Society, the Honorable Charles E. Hughes, on his appointment as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The minutes of the various standing committees were presented and approved.

General Secretary Brown reported that, while the income from the churches and the receipts on the annuity basis had fallen somewhat during the year 1929, the income from individuals had increased.

Recording Secretary Chamberlain reported a most successful year in the special work of the Society for the blind,—a total of 3,725 volumes of embossed Scriptures having been distributed.

The Treasurer reported the following consignments to the Society's Foreign Agencies during the month of December, 1929: Brazil, 3,482 volumes, valued at \$1,957.81; Caribbean, 54 volumes, valued at \$41.17; Mexico, 5,200 volumes, valued at \$3,957.14; Philippines, 2,100 volumes, valued at \$138.64; Upper Andes, 167 volumes, valued at \$126.50; West Indies, 1,382 volumes, valued at \$417.84; total volumes, 12,385; total value, \$6,639.10.

The issues from the Bible House during December were 446,595 volumes.

The meeting was adjourned.

FORM OF A BEQUEST TO THE SOCIETY

I give and bequeath to the American Bible Society formed in New York in the year eighteen hundred and sixteen, and incorporated in the year eighteen hundred and forty-one, the sum of—

If real estate is given, for the last three words above, "the sum of," substitute the words "the following property, to wit."

HOW TO SEND MONEY BY MAIL

Your money may be lost if you enclose in an ordinary letter silver coin, bills or postage stamps.

THE SAFE WAY IS ONE OF THESE FOUR:

1. Register the letter in which you send bills or postage stamps. Any postmaster will register a letter for fifteen cents.
2. Send the money by Bank check or draft.
3. Send it by an Express Company's money order.
4. Send it by a Post-office money order.

Whichever way is chosen, address the letter and make the check, draft, or order, payable to Gilbert Darlington, Treasurer, Bible House, Astor Place, New York.

CASH RECEIPTS IN JANUARY, 1930

LEGACIES		FOREIGN AGENCY		Auxiliary Societies on	
Douglass, Caroline E., Estate of, late of Buffalo, N. Y.	\$1,000 00	Siam Agency.....	\$ 2 50	Donation Account.....	\$ 399 47
Everett, C. E., Estate of, late of Summer Shade, Ky.	40 00	HOME AGENCIES		Foreign Agency	2 50
Gilbert, Florence A., Estate of, late of Brooklyn, N. Y.	10 75	Atlantic	\$5,589 52	Home Agencies	32,729 54
Van Vechten, Helen N., Estate of, late of Esperance, N. Y.	250 00	Central	2,598 79	Returns from Scriptures	
	\$1,300 75	Coired	2,175 54	Donated	133 74
		Eastern	3,759 00	Trust Funds Permanent,	
		National Capital	765 20	General Purpose	361 03
		Northwestern	5,457 80		\$73,564 29
		Pacific	3,895 00		
		South Atlantic	2,982 07		
		Southwestern	3,205 58		
		Western	2,301 04		
			\$32,729 54		
ANNUITY GIFTS		TRUST FUNDS PERMANENT—GENERAL PURPOSE		MISCELLANEOUS	
Amount received during month	\$37,050 00	Mason, Lewis D.	\$ 336 03	Annuity Dept.	\$ 472 76
		Memorial to Mrs. Earl V. Depew and her daughter Clair H. Depew, through Chaplain and Mrs. J. C. Howard	25 00	Bible House	9,995 76
			\$361 03	Bible Society Record...	16 72
AUXILIARY SOCIETIES		RETURNS FROM SCRIPTURES DONATED		Funds Received for Transmission	322 57
Received on Book Donation Account		Board of National Missions, Presbyterian Church.	\$ 20 90	General Salaries and Expenses	165 50
Buffalo and Erie Co., N. Y.	\$500 00	Dorsy Newborn	29	Gifts for the Blind:	
Dutchess Co., N. Y. 1 53	\$ 50 00	London Missionary Society	102 30	From Churches \$2,060.28	
Green Co., Ohio.	10 00	Presbyterian Mission to Navajo Indians	10 25	From Individuals \$253.05	2,313 33
Jefferson Co., N. Y.	60 00		\$133 74	Gifts from Churches...	10,018 66
Jefferson Co., Shepherdstown Branch, W. Va.	37 38			Gifts from Individuals..	15,861 14
New Bedford, Mass.	336 70			Income from Available Investments	66 31
Oshkosh, Welsh, Wis.	50 00			Income from Legacies and Gifts, Trust Funds...	1,816 14
Randolph Co., Ill.	66 63			Legacy Equalization Fund	30 00
St. Louis, Mo.	612 61			Library	3 93
Salem Bible Ass'n, N. C.	25 08			Manufacturing Credits...	123 74
Schoharie Co., N.Y.	41 47			Special Annuity Income and Expense	409 50
Ulster Co., N. Y.	7 28			The Trade	749 92
	\$ 399 47			Trust Funds Subject to Life Interest	145 00
	1,587 26			Wragg, J. P. and J. E., Trust Fund Invested..	60 00
	\$1,986 73				\$43,070 98
On Book Account.				Total Cash Receipts..	\$116,635 27

CASH STATEMENT FOR JANUARY, 1930

RECEIPTS		GENERAL CASH STATEMENT		DISBURSEMENTS	
Balance from December, 1929.....	\$ 18,891 37	Bills of Exchange.....	\$ 21,531 76		
Gifts from Auxiliaries.....	399 47	General Salaries and Expenses.....	4,432 59		
Auxiliaries	1,587 26	Treasurer's Office—Salaries and Expenses	2,092 98		
Trade	749 92	Bible House Expenses	6,834 40		
Manufacturing Credits	123 74	Appeals	1,361 17		
Annuity Account	37,050 00	Diffusion of Information.....	2,317 82		
Bible House Rentals.....	9,995 76	Annuity Department	23,092 98		
Gifts for Distribution to Blind.....	2,313 33	Bible Society Record.....	21 08		
Gifts from Churches.....	10,018 66	Home Agencies	13,285 39		
Gifts from Individuals.....	15,861 14	Foreign Agencies	5,765 28		
Bible Society Record.....	16 72	Funds Received for Transmission.....	804 88		
Wragg, Rev. and Mrs. J. P. Fund.....	60 00	Benson, Solomon C., Fund.....	90 00		
Funds Received for Transmission.....	822 57	United States Trust Co.—Annuity Account	12,000 00		
Trust Funds Permanent—General Purpose	361 03	Blind Fund	368 20		
Trust Funds Subject to Life Interest.....	145 00	Miscellaneous Home	2 00		
Legacy Equalization Fund.....	30 00	Miscellaneous Foreign	582 58		
Home Agencies	32,729 54	Church Budget Costs.....	336 54		
Foreign Agencies	2 50	Legacy Expenses	205 63		
Library	3 93	Library	11 68		
General—Salaries and Expenses.....	165 50	Pensions	316 66		
Special Annuity—Income and Expense Account	409 50	Income from Legacies and Gifts—Trust Funds	576 70		
Income from Legacies and Gifts—Trust Funds	1,816 14	Special Annuity—Income and Expense Account	465 00		
Annuity Department	472 76	Million Testament Fund.....	13,350 56		
Incomes from Available Investment.....	66 31	Plate Account	9 97		
Legacies	1,300 75	Translation and Revision.....	3 10		
Returns from Scriptures Donated.....	133 74	Balance to February, 1930.....	26,117 69		
	\$135,526 64		\$135,526 64		

PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT CASH STATEMENT

Balance from December, 1929.....	\$53,849 94	Publication Department	\$18,465 28
		Balance to February, 1930.....	35,384 66
	\$53,849 94		\$53,849 94
Total Cash Balance.....	\$61,502 35		

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